

DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building
401 Federal Street, Suite 2
Dover, Delaware 19901

Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education
The Cabinet Room

January 8, 2015
2:00 P.M.

Members Present: Diane Albanese, Linda Brown, Jennifer Burton, Stephanie Dewitt, Nelia Dolan, Cristy Greaves, Darren Guido, David Kohan, Rosaria Macera, Byron Murphy, Wendy Murray, Darlene O'Neill and Stephanie Smith

Members Absent: Michael Casson and Mary Pinkston

Others Present: Chris Kenton; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Kimberly Rodriguez; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; Executive Director SBE, Wendy Modzelewski; DOE, Angeline Rivello; DOE, Liz Hoyt; Rodel Foundation and Donna Mitchell; Wilmington University, Kathleen Geiszler; Department of Justice, Patricia Davis-Oliva; Department of Justice

I. Opening

Call to Order: Mr. Murphy, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 2:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

A Motion was made by Ms. Brown and Seconded by Ms. Albanese to approve the January 8, 2015 Agenda. **The motion carried** (12 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Murphy, Murray, O'Neill and Smith).

Approval of Minutes for December 4, 2014

A Motion was made by Ms. Murray and Seconded by Mr. Kohan to approve the December 4, 2014 Minutes as amended to Ms. Dewitt, present and Mr. Guido, absent. **The motion carried** (12 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Murphy, Murray, O'Neill and Smith).

The 13th Board member arrived to the meeting.

II. Executive Director's Report

- The Executive Director and the Chair for the board met with Donna Johnson to discuss 1571.

- Attended the DESS Advisory Council Meeting. Spoke about Blue Ribbon Schools.
- Had a meeting with the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee.
- Met with Annie Norman from the Archives and discussed 1580 School Library.
- The Executive Director and Angeline Rivello met with the Licensure and Certification Office.
- Had a conference call with Lisa Hedrick from ETS regarding Praxis exams.
- Met with Karen Field Rogers to discuss the PSB budget and the request for eBoard.
- Presented to DASPA to get feedback on regulations.
- Presented to the State Board of Education 1572 the current Praxis Exam that the Board approved for Gifted or Talented and 1512, 1513, 1514 and 1507 were approved with very few questions.
- Met with Donna Johnson from the State Board of Education for the monthly meeting.
- Met with Shannon Holsten and Angeline Rivello to discuss 1595.

Motion to go into recess at 2:35 p.m. to recognize the Board's Legal Counsel who will no longer be representing the Professional Standards Board by Ms. Burton and Seconded by Dr. Greaves. **The motion carried** (13 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Murray, O'Neill and Smith).

- **The Board resumed the meeting and came out of recess at 2:45 p.m.**
- **Per Legal Counsel Mrs. Fontello, Kathleen Geiszler will now be representing the Professional Standards Board.**

III. Discussion Items

A. 1507 – Alternative Routes to Teacher Licensure and Certification Program

- The Executive Director commented that the regulation is out for public comment through the end of January. There are still no public comments that have been made. This regulation was part of the five year cycle. The Board after careful review chose to renew the regulation without any changes. The Board is currently awaiting a report on the regulation to see if any changes are needed. If changes are needed, the Board will revisit the regulation at that time.
- Legal counsel mentioned that once the report went to the General Assembly there could also be legislation that may also change the decision.
- The Executive Director commented that this Regulation will be presented to the State Board of Education at its next meeting and will remain a discussion item.

B. 1561 Bilingual Teacher and 1562 English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teacher

- The Executive Director commented that 1561 and 1562 are currently out of the five year cycle.

- The Executive Director and Chair for the Board met with Terry Richard from the Department of Education regarding ESOL.
- There has been a 249 percent growth rate in the State of Delaware in the last ten years and ESOL is still not part of the unit count. This is a funding issue. There is a shortage in qualified teachers.
- The Executive Director and the Chair for the Board will be meeting soon with Ms. Richard and Mr. Fulkerson regarding the bilingual and ESOL teachers.
- 6 more schools will be offering the Immersion programs in their districts.
- The Chair for the Board commented that it is very difficult for the teachers trying to get through the process.
- The Chair feels that 1561 and 1562 are category certifications and need to be treated as category certifications. Wants to keep category vs content issue on the table.
- The Executive Director commented that he would like to reach out to Frank Livoy from the University of Delaware to see if they currently have any involvement in or would like to get involved. He would also like to meet with Scott Stevens from the University of Delaware to talk about the course offerings. The Director would like to make sure that the 15 credits are still being offered.
- Legal Counsel gave clarifications that this regulation has been viewed as a category and content certification in the past. As long as the regulation certifies them to do both there is nothing that can prevent it from being a category and content certification with a single certification. These regulations require more than the typical regulation.
- Frustrations were noted by Board members that are in the school districts about the students being registered that are not English speakers

C. 1571 – Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities

- The Executive Director commented on a report with the 398 Educators that could be impacted by an amended 1571.
- There are currently 91 teachers on an emergency certification.
- A question was asked about the “nulls” as well as how many were in the autism program?
- The Executive Director commented that he and Angeline Rivello will need to review the report a little more.
- The number of teachers that are Nationally Board Certified is 49 out of 398.
- Legal Counsel gave clarification that 1571 in its current draft does not impact the 398 educators. This would only apply to any new applicants and clearly recognizes that in the grandfathering provisions that this would not hold the impact to 1571. The issue may need to be addressed elsewhere and not 1571.

D. 1580 – School Library Media Specialist

- The Executive Director commented that he took 1580 to the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee in December. The Licensure and Certification asked the Executive Director to research the following;

- a. Research the accredited Bachelors programs for Library Media Specialists
- b. Gather data regarding the Praxis assessment that is offered for School Library Media Specialist that the Board does not currently require
- The Executive Director had phone conferences with the American Library Association as well as their school branch. The group pushes for a Master's degree for a person in this position which is what the regulation requires.
- Human Resources Directors state it is a funding issue.
- The ALA mentioned that there is a shortage of jobs but the Human Resources Directors in Delaware state that there is a shortage.
- The Executive Director mentioned that on January 21st we will get to host a Praxis setting workshop in Delaware. ETS will be coming in. They asked him to have approximately 5 School Library Media Specialists.

E. 1590 – Delaware Administrator Standards and 1595 – Certification Program for Leaders in Education

- The Executive Director met with Angeline Rivello and Shannon Holston from the Department of Education to discuss 1595 and how it might impact 1590.
- Angeline agreed to look at 1590 and 1595 at the Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee February meeting.
- The changes that could happen in 1595 in the certification program for leaders in education revolve around the approval process as well as the renewal process for the programs.

IV. Presentation

- Donna Johnson from the State Board of Education gave a presentation regarding the literacy campaign.
- The State Board has taken on the Literacy campaign with their voice and advocacy.
- Launching different policy briefs associated with the pillars.
- Launched the education preparation program, policy brief and the licensure and certification.
- Was approached by the National Governors Association with an opportunity for Delaware to receive some technical assistance from NGA around looking at all of the early childhood and birth to pre-k initiatives that were ongoing in the state to look and see what the gaps and opportunities were in the policies. NGA did a policy audit. NGA is doing a 3 to 24 month initiative of where Delaware would like to take them and who would be responsible for leading it.
- Finalizing the analysis with NGA.
- Reaching out to groups that are involved in literacy within the community and engaging them with the board and bringing in awareness.
- Working with the Governor's office with the Clinton Foundation and infant word count and talking about working with DHSS and the Kids Department.
- The State Board wanted to utilize their voice as a statewide body of citizens advocating for education and recognizing it starts well before kids enter the schools.

- Education preparation program was aligned to Senate Bill 51 and Regulation 290 which was around the teacher prep programs. Wanted to make sure that the components of the ed prep programs for literacy and mathematics were clearly articulated in regulations.
- This was a Secretary only approved regulation however the State Board wrote public comments and went to the meetings to help develop the regulation and share their thoughts on the initiative.
- Making sure the regulations in 290 for the exit programs directly align with the licensure and certification programs.
- Taking a deep dive at looking at the content readiness assessments specifically with a laser like focus on teaching reading to make sure the teachers are as prepared as they need to be to teach reading.

V. **Action Items**

A. **1559 Skilled and Technical Science Teacher (Final Publication)**

- The Executive Director and Legal Counsel have been working with Luke Rhine from the Department of Education regarding the proposed changes to the regulation.
- The Department wanted to expand CTE in the 21st Century to create opportunities for all students to pursue career and college readiness as part of their instructional program,
- Looking to expand the definition of CTE that go beyond the traditional tracks
- The proposed changes are primarily surface level and not intended to alter the credits.
- Legal Counsel reminded the Board that Mr. Rhine presented and reviewed the proposed changes with the Board at the last meeting.
- The Executive Director met with Charlie Michaels to review the regulation.
- Legal Counsel commented that the current regulation states that the Bachelor's Degree can be in any content area as long as they can show the specialty by the additional credits.
- There was a request to make it from six years to five years which would have been out of alignment with what was recognized for reasons of pay in Chapter 13. This would have created difficulty for the department. The Regulations have been made and looked at by many areas in the Department.
- Ms. Mitchell gave an overview regarding the historical context in the regulation. A motion was made to move the amended 1559 to publication by Dr. Greaves and seconded by Dr. Smith. **The motion carried (13 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Murray, O'Neill and Smith).**

B. **Professional Standards Board Procedures Manual (For Publication)**

- The Executive Director commented that he and Legal Counsel for the Board made some proposed changes such as:
 - a. Senate Bill 210 wording needed to be changed.
 - b. Board structure / membership. Updated the section to reflect the current membership requirement put forth by Senate Bill 210.
- The Board currently has 15 members serving out of 16. A name is going forth for Senate confirmation the third week of January to replace the Higher Education

position. There is still a vacancy in the teacher specialist position. No names have been given yet.

- A modification was made on how to remove someone from the Standing Committees. A motion was made to adopt the Procedures Manual and move to publication by Ms. Burton and seconded by Mr. Kohan. **The motion carried (13 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Murray, O'Neill and Smith).**

VI. PSB Standing Committees

A. Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee

- The Executive Director commented they discussed the Ed TPA vs PPAT assessments. This will be an ongoing discussion. The decision needs to be done by July. The institutes of Higher Ed are awaiting the decisions.
- Discussed 1580 School Library Media Specialists. The Licensure and Certification Criteria Committee asked the Executive Director to research the Praxis program as well as the Bachelor program.
- Talked about the Foundations of Reading assessment offered by Pearson. This could possibly replace the literacy portion of the elementary test that is currently being offered. The problem is that it is \$155.00 and could cost more money. ETS would like to give the Board a presentation on the new test called TREE.

VII. Other

The Executive Director commented that there are issues with the April meeting date. The Cabinet Room is not available for this date. The Board agreed that the meeting will be moved to Wednesday, April 1st at 5:00 p.m. at the John Collette Education Resource Center.

VIII. Public Comment

None

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Brown and was seconded by Dr. Guido to adjourn the meeting. **The motion carried (13 Yes to 0 No's - Albanese, Brown, Burton, DeWitt, Dolan, Greaves, Guido, Kohan, Macera, Murphy, Murray, O'Neill and Smith).** The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.